

The Town Crier

A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton



SMART Trailer A Regular Site In Town

You've probably seen the Warrenton Police Department's SMART Trailer all over town. As you drive past, it lets you know how fast you are driving, and what the local speed limit is. So far it's been a big help in curbing speeding in Town.

In the spring of 2000, the Town of Warrenton Transportation



sation Safety Commission conceived the idea of obtaining a speed monitoring device to reduce the speed of drivers in Town, thus reducing accidents and injuries. The Commission consists of Town council members, citizens and local business leaders tasked with addressing traffic safety issues.

As part of the Warrenton Police Department's "Community Policing Program," the department partnered with area businesses and organizations to bring the idea to reality. Now the SMART Trailer gets a lot of use in the Town of Warrenton.

SMART stands for Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer.

Manufactured by Kustoms Signals, Inc. (the leading manufacturer of Police Radar Units) the SMART Trailer is a portable, self-contained speed display unit that is towed to sites experiencing speed related problems. The trailer is equipped with a radar unit and LED display board which flashes the speed of oncoming vehicles. There also is a sign on the trailer indicating the posted speed limit.

An on-board computer records the speeds and times of vehicles passing. It flashes a red digital display for vehicles traveling over a pre-determined speed. Other speeds are displayed in amber. The computer also assists the department in identifying the times of day when speed problems occur on a particular street.

The Warrenton Police Department hopes that the SMART Trailer not only will help the department identify problem areas, but also serve as a reminder to drivers of Town speed limits.

If you'd like to request the SMART trailer for your neighborhood, contact 1st Sgt. Walter Putnam at the Warrenton Police Department, (540) 347-1107 extension 225, or e-mail him at wputnam@warrentonva.gov. ■

Town Wins Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented an award of Distinguished Budget Presentation to the Town of Warrenton for its annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003. This is the eighth consecutive year the Town has received this prestigious award.

In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a

financial plan and as a communication device.

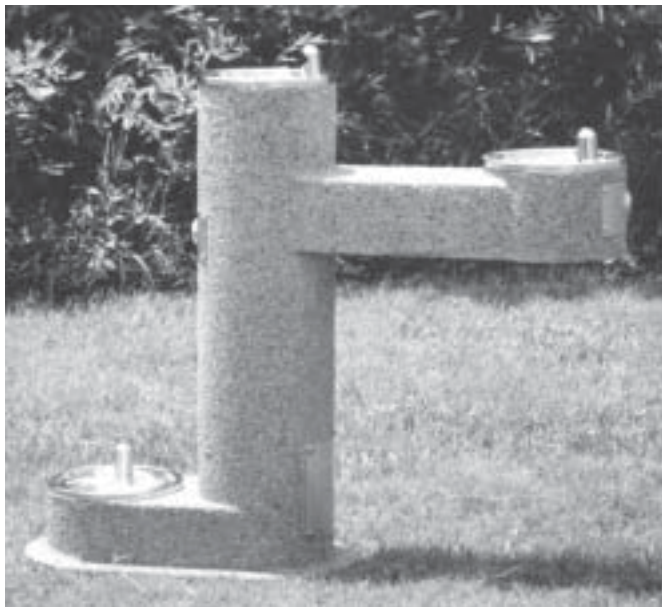
The Town has worked hard to develop a budget document that not only serves as an internal operational tool, but also as a communications vehicle. It provides Town citizens with (a) a detailed description of the budget process, (b) significant information relating to the internal workings, purposes, goals and primary functions of the various departments, and (c) certain policies and procedures established by the governing body. ■

New Drinking Fountain Coming This Summer

Many people who attended the Warrenton Spring Festival for the past three years have noticed the popularity of the temporary hydrant water fountains that provided relief to the public and their pets. Many have wondered why such watering holes could not be available on a more permanent basis around the Main Street area.

Now there's good news to report!

The Town plans to install a new water fountain adjacent to the courtyard outside of Town Hall (18 Court Street). The fountain should be installed by July. The structure will actually have three fountains, one for the general public, one that is handicap accessible, and the third at ground level for our four-legged friends. ■



Town of Warrenton FY 2005 Budget Approved

The Warrenton Town Council adopted the Town's annual budget at its May 11, 2004 meeting. The adopted budget is the financial plan for the upcoming fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. During this process, the Council adopts both the real and personal property tax rates to be levied. We are pleased to note that the Town's 2004 real estate tax rate remains at \$.03 per one hundred of assessed value, and the personal property tax remains at \$1.00.

The Town encourages its citizens to review the FY2005 budget document and actively solicits questions, suggestions or comments. The FY2005 budget is available at Town Hall, the main branch of the Fauquier County Public Library in Warrenton and on the Town's website (www.warrentonva.gov). ■

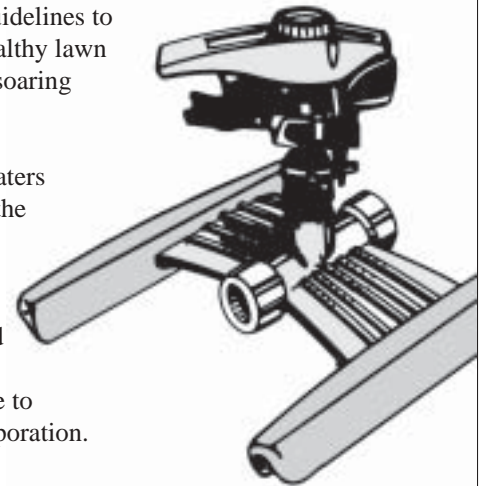
Summer Lawn Watering Tips

While we've had a little taste of summertime temperatures already, the worst heat is yet to come. During times of drought, heat waves and water restrictions, it is more important than ever to use water in the most efficient and effective manner when watering your lawn.

High heat, evaporation, wind, lawn diseases, and water restrictions all affect lawn watering.

So here are a few guidelines to follow towards a healthy lawn without the pain of soaring water bills:

- Mother Nature waters everyone's lawn in the early morning in the form of dew. Early morning is the best time to water. Avoid watering in mid-day or late afternoon due to water loss from evaporation.
- When possible, avoid watering at night as it can be unhealthy for your lawn by encouraging disease.
- Use an empty tuna can or other container that is about one inch tall to measure lawn water. Place the can on the ground in the area to be watered, and when it is filled, your lawn has had enough. ■



Town Business License Reminder

As a reminder, if you are a business and have a physical location within the Town of Warrenton's corporate limits, you must have a Business, Professional, Trade or Occupational License, often referred to as BPOL. If you do not have a Town Business License, or have questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Finance Department at (540) 347-1102 or visit the Town's web site at www.warrentonva.gov for further information.

The license period is June 1 of each year to May 31 of the following year. The Town's Finance Department recently mailed tax bills to each business that returned their renewal application. If you have not returned your renewal application or have not received a bill for the 2005 license period, please contact the Finance Department. This amount must be paid by June 30, 2004 to avoid a 10% interest and late payment penalty. ■

Brush Collection Policy Reminder

Yard work is a way of life for many Town residents during these warmer months. Here's a reminder on the Town's brush collection policy.

The Town provides brush collection services on an unscheduled basis. Just place your brush at the curbside or road edge, and Town crews will pick it up as time allows. Remember, the brush collection is for larger limbs that can be fed through a chipper. Large logs, stumps, rocks and dirt will not be picked up. All small trimmings/clippings and or grass/leaves should be placed in bags and set out with regular refuse.

If you hire a private contractor or landscaping company to do tree trimming or removal, it is the contractor's responsibility to haul the trimmings and brush away. The Town will not take these items when a contractor is involved.

If you have any questions please call Public Works at 347-1858. ■



Crosswalk Etiquette

Over the past six years, the Town has made great strides in promoting pedestrian safety along the public streets. Signalized crosswalks have been installed at the four major intersections and at the Shirley Avenue crossing from Taylor Middle School to the Warrenton Branch Trail.

With all this accomplished on the "old by-pass," the Old Town area at times is a combat zone between motorists and pedestrians. Summertime brings increased traffic from general outdoor activity and tourists visiting the Town.

As motorists, please be on guard for pedestrians in the crosswalks and darting out from between parked cars to cross the street. Please yield to people in the crosswalks. Not only is hitting a pedestrian in a crosswalk against the law, but it is downright "rude!" Extra care and courtesy is appreciated. ■



Pet Owners: Do You Know Your Responsibilities?

As Warrenton continues to grow and becomes a more suburban community, there are more citizens... and pets! In Warrenton it is important to note that pet owners have responsibilities to take care of their animals and to ensure that they do not infringe upon the rights of others.

Over the years, the Town has adopted many ordinances concerning the ownership and care of pets. Here is a brief reminder of some of the ordinances that must be adhered to in Warrenton:

● **Regulation of Barking Dogs.** The continuous barking of dogs could be construed to be a violation of the Town's noise ordinance. Consequently, pet owners are asked to keep their dogs under control at all times and to ensure that their barking does not disturb their neighbors.

● **Dogs Running at Large.** Dogs are not permitted to run at large (out of control of their owner) anywhere at any time in the Town. Dogs running at large are a traffic hazard, often destroy other people's property and infringe upon the rights of others.

● **Walking Your Dog.** The Town of Warrenton is trying to become more pedestrian friendly, and has constructed many trails and sidewalks for the exercise and enjoyment of citizens. As you walk your dog along the streets, sidewalks and trails, please note that it is a violation of Town ordinance for your dog to defecate upon anyone else's property without that property owner's permission. In addition, it is a violation of the Town's ordinance to allow your dog to defecate in a public place without you, as an owner, cleaning it up.

If you are unaware of your responsibilities as a pet owner, please contact our Police Department or the Town Manager's office and we will be glad to outline your obligations or provide you with copies of the ordinances. ■

Thank You, Mitchell Landscaping!

Arbor Day this year was held at Highland School on Friday May 21, 2004. The Town would like to thank Mitchell Landscaping for the beautiful Red Maple tree, donated for planting at this year's Arbor Day celebra-

Higher Than Normal Water Usage? Try Inspecting Your Toilets.

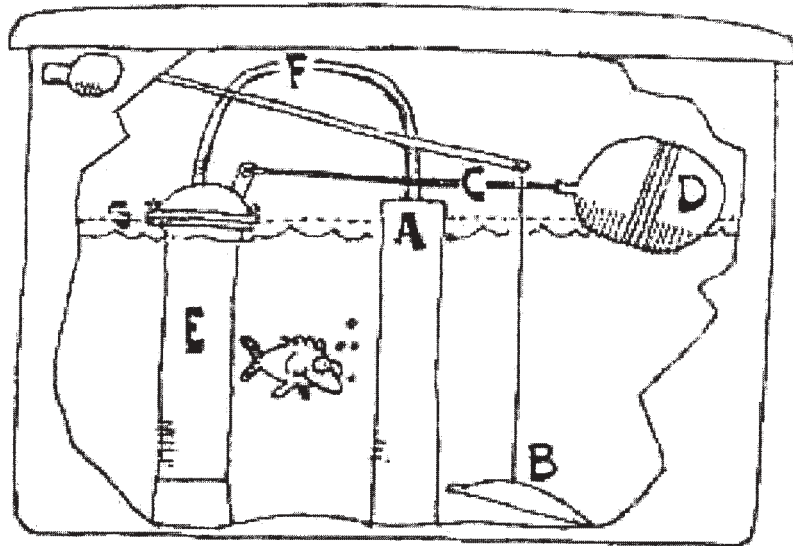
Faulty toilets cause over 95% of all water waste and leaks in the home. Worn or damaged parts in the flush tank are the usual culprits.

The very slightest leak in a toilet can add an additional \$30.00 to your monthly water bill. A flapper valve that hangs open (requiring the jiggling of the handle) can add as much as \$3,000.00 (three-thousand dollars) PER MONTH to your water bill, if allowed to run. High bills from toilet leaks are not adjustable.

To inspect your toilet, follow these instructions.

Step 1: Carefully remove the tank lid to begin your inspection. The diagram below will help illustrate the important parts of your toilet.

- A. Overflow Pipe**
- B. Flapper Valve**
- C. Float Arm**
- D. Float**
- E. Fill Valve**
- F. Fill Tube**
- G. Water Line**



Step 2: Flush the toilet and wait for the water flow that refills the toilet tank to shut off. You should be able to hear and see the water shut completely off. If the water flow does not stop completely (you will hear a slight hissing sound), proceed to step 3. Using a flashlight, visually check to make sure the water level in the tank is not overflowing into the overflow pipe "A" by shining the light down into the overflow pipe "A". If water is trickling down the inside wall of the overflow pipe "A", the water level needs to be adjusted. The water level should be about an inch below the overflow pipe opening. You may want to call a plumber if you are not sure how to adjust the water level.

Step 3: If the water flow into the tank does not completely stop (you will hear a slight hissing sound), the fill valve mechanism "E" may be defective. At this point, the mechanism "E" may need to be replaced, adjusted or the float "D" may need to be adjusted. Again, call your plumber if you are not sure how to replace or adjust these parts.

Step 4: The Flapper Valve "B" To check for a worn or improperly seated flapper valve "B", drop two dye strips, or 5-7 drops of red food coloring, into the toilet tank (not the bowl). Do this only if water is not overflowing into the overflow pipe "A". Do not flush. If the flapper "B" is not seating properly, the dye-colored water will leak into the bowl of the toilet in about 5-10 minutes. If this happens, the flapper valve "B" will need to be replaced or realigned. Sometimes the chain on the flapper valve "B" will hang, causing the flapper not to seat properly (thus the reason for jiggling the handle). Adjust chain so that it allows the flapper to close completely. Die strips are available from Town Hall at 18 Court Street at no cost to Town water customers.

For questions, contact Larry Oliver, Utilities Technician at (540) 347-1101.

Mark Your Calendar

Warrenton Police Department & Children of America

Invites the Public to Their
**Annual Public Safety Day
Open House**

**Saturday July 31, 2004
3:00PM to 6:00PM**

333 Carriage House Lane

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

- ★ **Crime Prevention Displays, Information & Tours**
- ★ **Face Painting**
- ★ **Door Prizes for Youth & Adults**
- ★ **Moon Bounce**
- ★ **Child ID- Fingerprinting & Photograph**

- ★ **Cool Off in Mist Tent**
- ★ **Dunk Tank, DUNK A COP**
- ★ **Rock Climbing Wall**
- ★ **Vince & Larry Crash Dummies**
- ★ **McGruff the Crime Dog**
- ★ **Warrenton Police Barrel Train**
- ★ **Games/Activities prizes for all ages**
- ★ **Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, BBQ, Pizza, Cotton Candy, Snow Cones and Drinks**

Sponsors:

**Children of America
Moser Funeral Home
Richard Sanders
Northern Virginia Drilling**





Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.

Economic Development	347-6574
Finance Department	347-1102
Inspections	347-2405
Maintenance Shop	347-1858
Police Department	
Office of the Chief	347-1105
Police Station	347-1107
Non-emergency	347-1100
Emergency	911
Planning and Zoning	347-2405
Recycling	347-1858
Sewage Plant	347-1104
Town Hall	347-1101
Town Manager	347-4505
Utilities	347-6574
Water Bills	347-2678
Water Plant	347-1103
TTD/TTY	1-800-828-1120

**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency
347-1100**

Holiday Refuse Collection Schedule

Labor Day - Monday, September 6, 2004

Monday 9/6/04 -- Holiday; no refuse collection.

Tuesday 9/7/04 -- Monday's refuse collection.

Wednesday 9/8/04 -- Tuesday's refuse collection

plus recycling collections (cardboard, news
paper and blue bags).

Thursday 9/9/04 -- Regular refuse collection.

Friday 9/10/04 -- Regular refuse collection.

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P.O. Drawer 341

Warrenton, VA 20188-0341



The Town Crier

is published by the Warrenton Town Council to inform
citizens of the major events which affect our government
and community.

TOWN COUNCIL

George B. Fitch, Mayor	iopinc@erols.com 347-5283
John V. Albertella	albertella@verizon.net 347-2917
John S. Lewis	sparky@concorinc.com 347-3766
David A. Norden	hsnaia@erols.com 347-5121
Terrence L. Nyhous	tnyhous900@aol.com 351-1655
Dennis M. Sutherland	dsutherland_ward3@hotmail.com 347-0310
Birge S. Watkins	bswatkins52@earthlink.com 347-4273
John E. Williams	jwilliams5953@aol.com 347-4057

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